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## RISE OF NATIONALISM IN KARNATAKA FREEDOM MOVEMENT

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### **Abstract:**

*Attempt is made in the article to explain the Rise of Nationalism in Karnataka Freedom Movement. The workers from Karnataka who stepped on the arena of Indian politics during 1885-1947 saw two dreams; conceived two ideas; had before them two maps; one was free India and another was unification of Karnataka, says Dr. Diwakar to express the fact that the freedom movement and the demand for unification went hand-in-hand in Karnataka. The freedom movement that was witnessed during the twentieth century, this is the golden era in the history of India and also of Karnataka. At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new National Consciousness began to emerge in Karnataka. Spread of English Education, revival of the History of Karnataka, creation of patriotic feelings, contributions of revolutionary news papers, Role of Political conferences, Impact of British policies, Development of Transportation and several factors causes for the Rise of Nationalism and patriotism in Karnataka Freedom Movement.*

**Keywords:** English Education, Kannada literature, Brahma Samaja, British polices, Marata, Aluru Venkatarao, Belgaum, Gandhiji.

### **Introduction:**

The freedom movement that was witnessed during the twentieth century, brought the common man to the fore as the maker of history, undergoing many trials and tribulations and suffering for a cause voluntarily. This is the golden chapter in the history of India and also of Karnataka.

The period of the rule of British Crown (from 1858) saw a term of quiet in Karnataka for almost three decades. Four from Karnataka, Kolachalam Venkatarao, Bausaheb Bhate from Belgaum and two others from Bellary had attended the first session of the Indian National Congress at

Bombay in 1885. A. O. Hume visited Dharwad and Belgaum in 1893 and propagated the Congress ideas. The Bombay State Political Conference was held at Belgaum in 1895 with Dinshaw Wacha as the President. These were some of the early activities connected with freedom movement in Karnataka.

### **Objectives:**

- To discuss about important factors cause for Rise of Nationalism.
- To focus on Historical factors of Karnataka Freedom Movement.
- To study about the Influence of British Policies on Karnataka Freedom Movement.

### **Methodology:**

The source of data collected are analysed to understand the growth of Nationalism in Karnataka Freedom Movement. The data collected will facilitate in the paper analysis and understanding the Rise of Nationalism in Karnataka Freedom Movement.

### **Rise of Nationalism:**

At the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new National Consciousness began to emerge in Karnataka; several factors contributed to it.

They were: Spread of English and Western education was responsible for the popularization of Western liberal and democratic ideas and the concept of modern nationalism in Karnataka.

Revival of the history of Karnataka by the works of Fleet, Rice, Sewell and Alur Venkata Rao made the people of Karnataka aware of the glory and grandeur of the past and a hankering for its reconstruction.

Writers like Alur, Galaganath, Shantakavi, Subodh Rama Rao, K.Vasudevacharya, B.Venkatacharya and others helped the creation of patriotic feelings. Newspapers also spread new ideas. The activities of Arya Samaj, Brahma Samaj, Theosophical Society, Ramakrishna Mission and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also had their impact.<sup>1</sup>

The forest laws, collection of revenue even under draught conditions etc., angered the peasants. Annihilation of industries like weaving, both cotton and gunny, salt, iron and steel, etc., caused unrest among traditional industrial sections. Introduction of kerosene oil did much harm to oil mongers. Famines and epidemics like plague made the life of the common people miserable. Poverty and death by starvation caused considerable unrest.

Tilak's news papers 'Kesari' and 'Maratha' were the real harbingers of modern nationalism in Karnataka, especially in the Bombay Presidency area. There were Kannada Journals too like Rajahamsa (1881), Karnataka Vritta (1880) and Dhananjaya (1895) all from Dharwad, Vrittanta

Chintamani (Mysore 1885) and Swadeshbhimani (Mangalore, 1907) who spread the new gospel. The turn of the century saw the spread of the national movement far and wide in the State. Many of the papers echoed the views of Tilak's Kesari. The British draining India's wealth and ruining its traditional industries was well explained by Kesari and other Periodicals.<sup>2</sup>

The Bombay State Political conference was held for a second time in Karnataka at Dharwad in 1903 attended by Tilak and Phirozeshaw Mehta, the latter presiding. The unrest following the division of Bengal (1906) did cast its shadow over Karnataka too. Public meetings in protest against 'Vangabhanga' were held at Dharwad, Belgaum, Alnavar, Gadag, Bagalkot, Kittur etc., Govindarao Yalgi, Dr. Joshi and 13 others underwent imprisonment for picketing liquor shops in Belgaum in 1907. Gangadharrao Deshpande opened a national school at Belgaum. Such schools were also opened at Dharwad, Hublic, Bagalkot and Bijapur.<sup>3</sup>

The Surat Congress of 1907 was attended by leaders from Karnataka like Alur Venkata Rao and Annacharya Hosakeri (of Dharwad), Srinivasarao Kaujalgi (of Bijapur), Govindarao Yalgi and Gangadharrao Deshpande (of Belgaum). In the clash that followed causing split in the Congress at Surat, these leaders sided with Tilak and other extremists. A revolutionary secret organization, Mazzini Club, was founded at Belgaum by Yalgi and Hanumantarao Deshpande soon after this.<sup>4</sup>

Tilak toured the North Karnataka area time and again. He visited Bellary in 1905 and Belgaum and Gurlahosur in 1906. When he started the Home Rule League in 1916, he visited Belgaum, Sankeshwar and other places and opened branches of the League. The League had its branches also in Dharwad, Siddapur (in North Kanara District), Bellary, Hubli and Mangalore. The Karnataka unit of the Home Rule League was founded with Dattopant Belvi as President.<sup>5</sup>

In the meanwhile, the 16<sup>th</sup> Bombay State Political conference was held at Belgaum in 1916, followed by the 18<sup>th</sup> such meet at Bijapur in 1918. Both these assemblies were attended by Gandhiji and also Tilak. Gandhiji also came to Mangalore and Bangalore in 1920.

The Arya Samaj was mainly responsible for national awakening in the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region and national schools were started in place like chincholi, Kalburgi, Raichur and Kukanur. Pandit Taranath was ordered to leave Hyderabad state in 1920 for his activities in Raichur. Hardekar Manjappa also did lot of propaganda in this region. The Theosophical Society under Besant helped popularize national ideas in Old Mysore. The Bangalore National High School was founded by the Theosphists in 1917.<sup>6</sup>

The Karnataka State Political Conference held at Dharwad in 1920 under the Presidentship of V.P. Madhava Rao (former Divan of Mysore) decided to send maximum number of delegates to the Nagpur congress from Karnataka, and nearly 800 delegates did go to Nagpur in 1920. It was at Nagpur that Karnataka was permitted to have a separate F.C.C. and the "Lion of Karnataka",



Gangadharrao Deshpande, became the first K.P.C.C. President. A District Congress Committee was founded for Mysore state with Justice Setlur as President and local Committees were started at Tumkur, Bangalore, Mysore and Kadur in 1921-22 in the Mysore state. But the Congress did not permit the conducting of agitations in princely areas.<sup>7</sup>

### **Conclusion:**

The last stage in the freedom struggle in Karnataka was marked by what is known as the Mysore Chalo agitation or the Palace Satyagraha. When India became Independent on 15 August 1947, the Maharaja of Mysore did not give an opportunity to the people to form a democratic and responsible government. The Mysore congress swore to establish such a government. Hence the congress started Satyagraha in front of the Mysore Palace from September 1, 1947 and launched Mysore Chalo agitation. Finally the Maharaja consented to the formation of responsible government on 24th October 1947.

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